

What is claim d is:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

image carrying means; and

an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying means at first and second transfer positions,

wherein the toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,

wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from the nearest image carrying means on a downstream side in a moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from the nearest image carrying means on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material, and

wherein the following formula is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as L_{ab} , a circumference of said intermediate transfer body in the moving direction is denoted as L_r , and a length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as L_m :

$$L_r - L_m > L_{ab}.$$

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a

toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is immobilized in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body where the images are formed successively.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a toner image of an image is transferred onto said intermediate transfer body after toner images of the previous image are entirely formed on said intermediate transfer body where the images are formed successively.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate transfer body has a surface resistivity from 10^7 Ohm per square (Ω/\square) to 10^{12} Ohm per square (Ω/\square).

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is moved on a downstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body at each image formation where the images are formed successively.

6. An image forming apparatus comprising:

image carrying means; and

an intermediate transfer body in an endless shape movable and receivable of toner images from said image carrying means at first and second transfer positions,

wherein the toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is transferred onto a transfer material after passing said first transfer position and said second transfer position again,

wherein said first transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from the nearest image carrying means on a downstream side in a moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein said second transfer position is a position for transferring to said intermediate transfer body from the nearest image carrying means on an upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body with respect to a position that the toner image is transferred from said intermediate transfer body to the transfer material,

wherein the following formula is satisfied where a distance from said first transfer position to said second transfer position along the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body is denoted as L_{ab} , a circumference of said intermediate transfer body in the moving direction is denoted as L_r , and a length of said toner image formed on said intermediate transfer body is denoted as L_m :

$$L_r - L_m \leq L_{ab}, \text{ and}$$

wherein a toner image forming position on said intermediate transfer body is moved on a upstream side in the moving direction of said intermediate transfer body at each image formation where the images are formed successively.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a toner image of an image is transferred onto said intermediate transfer body after toner images of the previous image are entirely formed on said intermediate transfer body where the images are formed successively.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said intermediate transfer body has a surface resistivity from 10^7 Ohm per square(Ω/\square) to 10^{12} Ohm per square(Ω/\square).